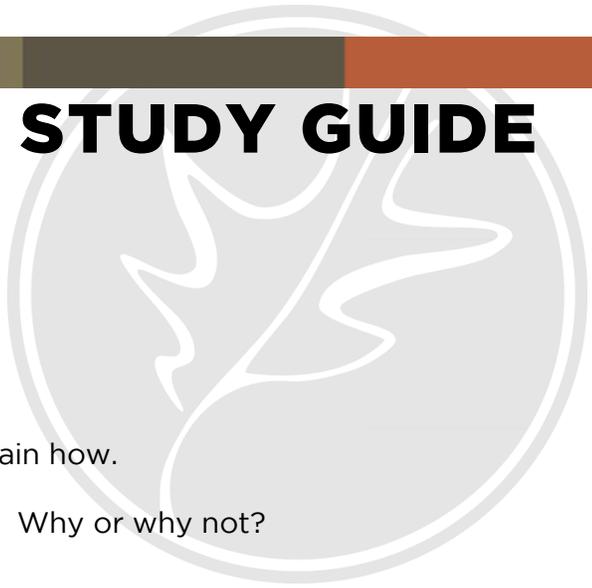


# STUDY GUIDE



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## **[set up]**

Has adoption touched your family somehow? If so, explain how.

Have you ever considered adopting or fostering a child? Why or why not?

## **[digging deeper]**

**Read Romans 8:14-17.** It was said this weekend that adoption gives us an identity and an inheritance. How do you see this in the Romans passage? How is that true spiritually when we come to Christ? How is that true for families who adopt a child?

How can we better understand that we are adopted by God's love according to these verses?

Ephesians 1:4-5

John 1:12-15

Galatians 4:4-5

How does the imagery of adoption illustrate God's work in saving sinners?

What can we learn about God's heart for orphan care from these verses?

Deuteronomy 10:18

Psalms 68:5-6

Psalms 146:9

What are instructions that God has given us related to orphan care?

Psalms 82:3

Isaiah 1:17

James 1:27

What is the connection between God's adoptive and redemptive love for us as His children and adoption and orphan care?

In what ways does adoption and orphan care look different if it's Gospel-driven and rooted in the great commission and discipleship rather than just a good cause or a way to grow a family?

Brainstorm 3-5 ways the following people can help with orphan care (feel free to write on post-it note)

- An elementary age child
- A middle school or high school student
- A young adult
- A young married couple
- A family with several children
- An empty nest couple or single
- An older widow/widower
- A LifeGroup
- An entire church body

## **[living it out]**

What have you done to participate in orphan care and adoption?

What is one way you can begin to participate in orphan care and adoption?

Circle 2 ideas from your earlier brainstorm list and/or the list below that you feel drawn to and able to do. What will be your first step and when will it be? Share with your LifeGroup what's on your heart.

Ways to participate with orphan care and adoption:

- Pray for orphans and waiting children.
- Pray for the families who are adopting and fostering.
- Financially support ministries that help with adoption.
- Financially support an orphanage.
- Go on mission trips to orphanages.
- Serve in an adoption ministry like Bethany or Spirit of Faith (there are always opportunities to volunteer).
- Advocate and be vocal about orphan care.
- Find ways to use your vocation or skills. For example—lawyers and notaries—you can offer your services free or at great discounts to families that need your expertise.
- Physical support for families: meals, childcare, house sit if they go out of country, run errands, throw a baby shower, give diapers and formula, bring meals to families who just adopted, give them money (insurance doesn't cover adoption).

For more information, check out the following websites:

Bethany Christian Services - <https://www.bethany.org/columbus-oh>

Spirit of Faith Adoptions - <https://www.spiritoffaithadoptions.org/>

Forever Home Adoptions - <http://foreverhomeadoptions.com/>

Close your group in prayer praying for waiting children in wombs, orphanages, and foster care. Pray for families who are adopting or should adopt...that God would guide and provide). Pray for the church to do even more in helping with orphan care and adoption.